

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



East and north (façade) elevations

Locus Map (north at top)



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

9-67

Salem

BEV. 1116

Town/City: Beverly

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Ryal Side

Address: 140 Bridge Street

Historic Name: Immanuel Congregational Church

Uses: Present: church

Original: church

Date of Construction: 1964

Source: Dept. of Public Safety records

Style/Form: contemporary

Architect/Builder: Valtz & Kimberley, Inc., architect;
Walsh Construction, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick with wood trim

Roof: fiberglass asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
cupola (2003)

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.4 acres

Setting: Located on main thoroughfare between downtown Beverly and Danvers, in a largely residential neighborhood developed in the late 19th to mid 20th century.

Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BEVERLY

140 BRIDGE STREET

Area(s) Form No.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Immanuel Congregational Church occupies a large, roughly L-shaped lot on the south side of Bridge Street, opposite the Ryal Side Elementary School, which has been adaptively re-used for housing. (For convenience of terminology, the building is assumed to face north, although it more accurately faces northeast.) The street slopes gently down to the west in this location. The lot itself drops steeply to the south between flat areas along Bridge Street and the southern portion of the site.

The church is set in the western portion of its parcel, with a modest setback at the front and rear; the eastern portion is presently undeveloped. The front setback is maintained chiefly in lawn, with concrete retaining walls and broad concrete steps located at the off-center main entrance. Most of the side and back areas of the site are paved to accommodate surface parking. The property also contains a commemorative church bell displayed at the street edge along the eastern end of the site, near what appears to be the ruins of the previous church building's foundation.

The Immanuel Congregational Church is a long, low rectangular structure comprised of two main parts: a longer and higher block to the east (containing the sanctuary) and a shorter and lower block on the west (containing offices and other support functions). Enlivened by varied recesses and projections, the building rises one story above street level (with a fully exposed basement level at the sides and rear) to shallow, side gable roofs. Exterior walls are clad in brick in a running bond pattern, with a course of Flemish bond every sixth row. They are trimmed with a flat wood fascia board and wood cornice and, at the eastern block, very tall, angled eave brackets built up of dimensional wood. Window bays characteristically extend the full height of the wall, framed by shallow brick piers and occasionally employing solid wood infill. Windows are typically grouped wood units with wood sills and vertical fixed glass panes above awning windows; window openings on the taller east block also feature transom sash.

The five-bay façade (north) elevation of the east block features a shallow, off-center cross gable with a slightly angled face and a large window opening with a grid of vertical and roughly square sash extending to the roof peak, flanked by bays of triple windows. Centered atop the cross-gable is a small wood cupola with a solid base, louvered openings above, and a hip roof; it was built in 2003. The façade of the smaller west block has a wide, recessed entrance bay adjacent to the sanctuary, containing double-leaf metal doors and a rectangular transom and flanked by a trio of windows on each side, and two window bays, each with paired windows, at the outer end.

The west elevation of the building contains a large center window opening with bands of five windows on each floor, framed by recessed wood panels with prominent wood mullions. The east elevation is dominated by a large circular window with thick wood trim in the gable peak, a five-part window unit at the basement level, and utilitarian, single leaf doors in the outer bays of the basement. The rear (south) elevation of the eastern block contains three-part window units and an off-center cross gable similar to that on the façade on the east block, and paired window units on the west block. A recessed inner section features a tri-partite window surmounting a double-leaf doorway, whose simple shed roof is supported by a single steel column at its outer corner.

Near the northeast corner of the site are the remnants of a poured concrete foundation, consisting of a front wall, portions of the side walls, and what appears to be a square tower base. In the narrow front setback of this structure stands a large church bell, mounted on a low concrete platform. Inscribed on the bell are the lines "PAUL REVERE & SON BOSTON 1803 / BLAKE BELL CO. BOSTON 1896".

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The Immanuel Congregational Church is a modestly scaled but robust and handsome example of mid 20th century architecture in Beverly. Well preserved and maintained, the largely intact design is notable for its horizontal proportions, subtle but sophisticated manipulation of massing, articulation of wall surfaces and fenestration, and unusual eave brackets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Ryal Side neighborhood rapidly developed with suburban housing beginning around the turn of the 20th century, attracting a street railway, a Sunday school and subsequent church, an elementary school, and a few small stores along Bridge Street. The roots of the Immanuel Church began in the Ryal Side Union Sunday School, which was established in 1893. In 1896, the school's organizers built a two-room chapel at the corner of Bridge and Livingston streets (now 60 Bridge Street); it was used for both religious and social activities until 1916.

The group incorporated as Immanuel Church in 1903 under the leadership of Rev. Perley C. Grant, and became affiliated with the Congregational Church around 1910. Growth of the congregation soon led to the need for a larger church building. The present lot was purchased, the cornerstone of a new building was laid in 1915, and the new church was dedicated in 1916. The architect of the 1916 structure, Chester Clark, also designed the nearly contemporary Ryal Side fire station nearby, at 124 Bridge Street (see form). The Paul Revere bell that is presently displayed in front of the 1916 church foundations was given by the First Parish Unitarian Church in Beverly and installed in Immanuel Church's tower in 1931. A fire at the Immanuel Congregational Church in 1963 destroyed the original church building, which was replaced by the current structure in the following year.

Ministers of the Immanuel Congregational Church have included Clement M. G. Harwood (1910), Charles C. Keith (1920), J. Herbert Owen (1930), Norman B. Cawley (1940), William E. Wimer (1950), and Charles F. Hood (1960).

The present church building was constructed in 1964, Valtz & Kimberley, Inc. of Malden, architects. Born in Montreal, John A. Valtz (1911-1978) attended MIT, where he was a Rotch Traveling Scholar in 1937. Sydney F. Kimberley (1904-1969) was born in England; his architectural training is presently unknown. MACRIS identifies seven properties associated with the firm, which was formed in 1949. They were responsible for five public schools in Melrose (including the Decius Beebe Grammar School, 1956), the Phippen Building addition to Salem Hospital (1957-58), the renovation of St. Stevens Episcopal Church in Lynn (designed by Ware and Van Brunt), an addition to the Melrose Public Library, the design of the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston (1968-70), and projects at Endicott Junior College in Beverly.

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Detail of façade (north) elevation



West and south elevations



Foundation ruins at northeast corner of site



Bell at northeast corner of site